



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

Manual:	CP&P	Child Protection and Permanency	Effective Date:
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Chapter:	A	Health Services	2-6-2006
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Policy

2-6-2006

If a hospitalized child receiving services from CP&P is not returning to his parent's/caregiver's care after discharge, and CP&P has authority (i.e., a court order) and responsibility for placing the child, the Worker must find a suitable, alternative placement as soon as possible. This enables the child to leave the hospital when the child's physician has decided that there is no longer any medical necessity for hospitalization. Open and frequent communication among the hospital social worker, the CP&P Worker and the attending physician in regard to planning for the child is essential in these situations.

When the hospital staff/attending physician notifies the Worker that the child is ready for discharge the Worker must be sure, before placing the child, that:

- there is a court order granting CP&P custody, the right to place or guardianship, and
- there is an appropriate alternative living arrangement for the child.

Continued Hospitalization

3-1-96

Continued hospitalization after the physician has determined that medical necessity has ended may not be in a child's best interests. In addition, claims for payment of a Medicaid eligible child's hospitalization beyond the date of medical necessity are rejected by the Medicaid Contractor. Children who are not Medicaid eligible and remain in the hospital after medical necessity has ended continue to be the financial responsibility of their parents/caregivers, any third party coverage they may have.

Alternative Placement of Choice Unavailable

1-12-83

In the event that medical necessity for hospitalization no longer exists and an alternative placement of choice has not been found or is not available, the Worker must consider whether placing the child temporarily in an emergency foster (shelter) home or other

children's shelter until a more permanent placement of choice can be achieved is advisable. If not, and if the child is eligible for Medicaid and enrolled, a Social Necessity Extension of Hospital Stay may be possible.

Social Necessity Extension of Hospital Stay for Children Enrolled in Medicaid 2-6-2006

Social necessity for extension of the hospital stay exists when:

- the child is eligible for and enrolled in New Jersey Medicaid through any agency, and
- the hospital has notified the Worker (within one working day of the last day of medical necessity) that the child is ready for discharge, and
- the Worker has obtained authority through a court order to seek an alternative placement other than the child's own family, and
- alternative placement is not immediately available.

In this situation the Medicaid Contractor, may reimburse a hospital for up to twelve calendar days following the period established as being medically necessary. The Worker must inform the hospital in writing that an alternative placement has not been found so that the hospital can submit a claim to the Medicaid Contractor for the hospitalization that follows the last day of medical necessity. The hospital social services staff and the Worker both have a responsibility to secure a less expensive protective environment for the child before the social necessity extension has expired.

Procedures Related to Placement Following Hospitalization 3-1-96

RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION REQUIRED
Worker	1. Determine whether it is appropriate for a hospitalized child to return to his own home and/or previous caregiver.
	2. Determine who is financially responsible for the hospitalization.
	3. Secure appropriate authority to place the hospitalized child.
	4. Select and arrange for alternate placement of choice.
Hospital/Attending Physician	5. Notify Worker that medical necessity for hospitalization has ended and the child

	can be discharged.
Worker	6. Remove child from hospital and place the child in an appropriate alternative placement.
	7. Update NJS accordingly
	8. Seek emergency foster (shelter) home or other shelter care if unable to secure placement of choice.
	9. Notify the hospital/ attending physician in writing if placement of choice cannot be located or arranged by or at time of discharge and there is no emergency foster (shelter) home or other shelter care available.
Hospital	10. Document Worker's notification of inability to remove the child to an alternative placement so that social necessity extension of hospital stay can be claimed if child is eligible for code 60 or 65 Medicaid.
Worker	11. Remove child from hospital before or at the end of the twelve day social necessity extension.